

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 20-21 as follows:

FIG. 1 depicts an exemplary class hierarchy including methods that return constants ~~in an embodiment of the present invention.~~

Please amend the paragraph on page 25, lines 8-11 as follows:

In an embodiment of the present invention, a compiler, a constant return optimizer, or a control operation optimizer ~~may be~~ incorporated as part of the operating system 35. The compiler, the constant return optimizer, or the control operation optimizer is incorporated, in other embodiments, in the application programs 36. In still other embodiments, the compiler, the constant return optimizer, or the control operation optimizer is incorporated in the[[or]] other program modules 37. Return constant tables, vtables, and program code ~~may be stored~~are stored, in some embodiments, as program data 38.